



COMMUNITY ALLIANCE
WITH FAMILY FARMERS

January 22, 2006

The Honorable Arnold Schwarzenegger
State Capitol
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Comments on Draft Climate Action Team Report

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The Community Alliance with Family Farmers (CAFF) is pleased to comment on the draft report of the Climate Action Team to the Governor and Legislature. We have previously expressed our concern about the impacts of global warming on California agriculture. Agriculture is uniquely placed in the crosshairs of several of the most significant likely effects of global warming in California, including increased temperatures, reduced water supply, and increased pest and weed outbreaks.

As the report notes, agriculture will bear a disproportionate share of any water scarcity due to climate change and will, impose significant costs on Central Valley agriculture (25-26). While increased temperatures may have a momentary beneficial effect on some crops, the long-term effects of significant temperature increases will certainly be harmful for agriculture (26). As temperatures rise, growth rates of weeds, insect pests, and pathogens also will increase and their ranges may expand (26).

Farmers and ranchers face numerous risks and uncertainties largely beyond their control, and chief among them are weather and climate. California's extensive system of dams and reservoirs, for example, is a product of the state's adaptation to its weather and climate, designed to capture the heavy Sierra snowmelt for use throughout the year and especially during the summer growing season. Global warming threatens to overwhelm that system and with it the state's agricultural economy. With so many variables affecting agriculture, the impacts of global warming on California agriculture are impossible to predict accurately. We do know, however, that they will be large and disruptive.

For all these reasons, CAFF urges you to act swiftly to consider and adopt the recommendations of the report. Those recommendations include two that could be applied in agriculture: conservation tillage/cover crops and changing livestock feed regimens to reduce enteric fermentation. CAFF has worked with many growers to increase their use of cover crops and urges the state to pursue this strategy aggressively, as it provides many benefits beyond carbon sequestration. We also urge the Climate Action Team to analyze other activities in agriculture that could reduce global warming and provide other societal benefits, such as strategies to reduce the use of pesticides that contain volatile organic compounds. Farms that implement sustainable agricultural practices, like other businesses that implement best management practices

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and other sustainable activities, almost always will contribute less to global warming than those who engage in less sustainable practices.

Governor Schwarzenegger, by your Executive Order on climate change and your declaration in San Francisco last June that "the debate is over" and "the time for action is now," you have demonstrated that you are a national leader on the critical issue of global warming. Now, however, the real challenge begins: implementing the recommendations of your Climate Action Team so that your call for action is actually turned into action. CAFF agrees with you. We cannot wait. The time is now.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Pete Price". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Pete" and last name "Price" clearly distinguishable.

PETE PRICE

Governmental Affairs Representative

cc: The Honorable Alan Lloyd, Secretary, CalEPA
Ms. Anne Baker, Deputy Secretary, CalEPA
Ms. Elaine Tutt, Assistant Secretary, CalEPA
Mr. Terry Tamminen, Office of the Governor